



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

January 21, 2002

Dear Vader area resident,

Last spring, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) treated a 29-acre site in Vader with the biological insecticide Foray 48B, containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk), in an attempt to eradicate an infestation of the European gypsy moth, one of America's worst forest pest insects. As you may recall, 76 gypsy moths were caught in Vader in the summer of 2000, prompting last spring's treatment.

This past summer 10 gypsy moths were caught, indicating we did not eradicate the infestation. As a result, we are proposing to treat 560 acres in Vader this spring in another attempt to eradicate the infestation. In recent years the record of achieving eradication after treatment in only one year is very good, but there have been similar situations in which eradication activities in a second year has been necessary.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our proposal, and invite you to an open house on Tuesday, January 29th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Vader Elementary School cafeteria to review material or ask questions about the proposal. Feel free to drop in anytime during this period to review material or ask questions of our staff.

In case you can't attend, here is some basic information on the proposed treatment: The boundaries of the 560-acre zone are 1) in the north, an east-west line about 1/4 mile south of Awmiller Road, 2) in the east, E Street, 3) in the south, 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and 4) in the west, a north-south line about 300 feet west of Maschke Road. The proposal involves three or four treatments of a biological insecticide, applied by air and/or ground equipment, 7 to 14 days apart. The applications would begin in late April or early May.

The insecticide we are proposing to use this spring is the same one we used last year -- Foray 48B. It has been registered for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has a proven safety record with people, pets, livestock, birds, fish, and other insects such as bees. Btk has been evaluated in a final environmental impact statement (FEIS), which includes human health and ecological risk assessments. Found naturally in the soil, Btk is toxic only to moths and butterflies in the caterpillar stage when the insecticide is applied. It is commonly used by organic gardeners today, and has been used on gypsy moth control projects since the early 1980s.

Enclosed for your information is a fact sheet on the gypsy moth, a map of the proposed treatment zone, and a copy of a press release recently sent to the media. If you have any questions on the proposed treatment, please call our toll-free Gypsy Moth Hotline (1-800-443-6684), email us at [Gypsymoth@agr.wa.gov](mailto:Gypsymoth@agr.wa.gov), or visit our web site at [www.wa.gov/agr/gypsy.htm](http://www.wa.gov/agr/gypsy.htm).

I look forward to seeing you on January 29th at the open house.

Sincerely,

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION

Chad H. Phillips  
Project Entomologist

Attachments